(b) if so, the details of the amendments proposed to be carried out in the main Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) A Committee has been constituted to review provisions of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights & Full Participation) Act, 1995 and to suggest and recommend suitable amendments in the existing provisions or new provisions in the Act, in order to cover the requirements of disabilities sector.

Joint Ventures with Foreign Steel Companies

1643. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM :
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some foreign steel companies have shown keen interest in having joint ventures with some of the steel plants of SAIL;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the efforts to have joint ventures with the foreign steel companies would have any impact on the performances of steel plants of .SAIL; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK): (a) to (d) Two parties, viz. M/s Nisso Iwai, Japan, and M/s Gamma Engineering, Canada, have shown interest for joint ventures with Salem Steel Plant in installation of steel making facilities and production of stainless steel slab respectively. However, this is in preliminary stage.

Joint Ventures with the foreign steal companies are expected to help in generation of cash apart from access to latest technologies, sharing of experiences and potential access to internal/external market.

Lignite Dcsposits in Gujarat

1644. SHRI BRAHMA KUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of lignite in Gujarat location-wise;

(b) whether some new lignite mines have been discovered by the Geological Survey of India or the State Directorate of Mines Gujarat;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent of lignite deposits discovered in the new areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) The details of lignite in Gujarat, location-wise is furnished in statement *(see* below)

(b) to (d) Geological Survey of India (GSI) has discovered some new lignite areas in Gujarat which are as follows:

(i) Rajpardi-Vastan block, Bharuch district.

(ii) Haripur-Daheli block, Bharuch district.

In Rajpardi-Vastan block, exploration has already established nearly 4 km. strike length of a 5.55m to 9.10m thick lignite seam within depth range of 50m to 125m in the southern continuity of the Bhuri Mining Block.

In Haripur-Daheli area shallow level occurrence of lignite seam having cumulative thickness of 12.55m with the thickest single seam of 6.60m within depth range of 39m to 127m have been established. So far 1 km. strike extension of this seam has been proved in the area. Further probing by drilling is in progress.